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Busou Renkin

By Watsuki Nobuhiro

Chapter 15: The darker, the hotter, the sweeter

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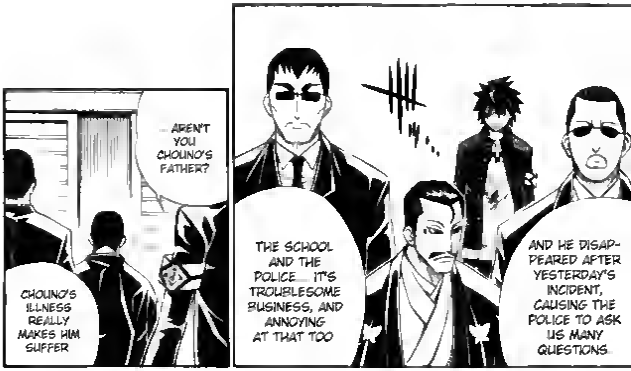
Qcer: MoonShadow

EH?
I'VE TOLD YOU,
I DON'T KNOW
SIGH: CHOUNO

KOUSHAKU'S WHEREABOUTS.
AND I DON'T WANT TO KNOW

WITH THAT, OUR FOUNDING FATHERS WOULD HAVE BEEN EVEN MORE RESPECTED, AND OTHERS WOULD LOOK UP TO HIM WITH AWE
MY DREAM WAS TO LET MY ELDEST SON INHERIT THE CHOUNO FAMILY NAME,
SO I'VE GIVEN HIM SPECIAL EDUCATION EVER SINCE HE WAS LITTLE
AND HE'S STILL HIDING, WASTING AWAY EVEN THOUGH HE'S ALREADY 20
BUT HE WAS HELD BACK IN HIGH SCHOOL TWICE ALREADY,
GRIT GRINDING HIS TEETH


...AREN'T YOU CHOUNO'S FATHER?
CHOUNO'S ILLNESS REALLY MAKES HIM SUFFER
THE SCHOOL AND THE POLICE... IT'S TROUBLESOME BUSINESS, AND ANNOYING AT THAT TOO
AND HE DISAPPEARED AFTER YESTERDAY'S INCIDENT, CAUSING THE POLICE TO ASK US MANY QUESTIONS

IF HE CAN'T FULFILL HIS TASK, HE'S JUST A PIECE OF TRASH
SO WHAT?

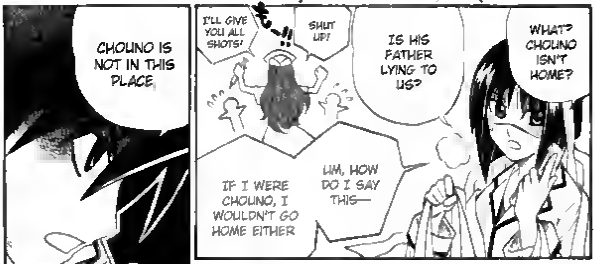
WE HAVE DECIDED TO LET OUR SECOND SON BE THE SUCCESSOR INSTEAD. WE DON'T NEED HIM ANYMORE
WHEN YOU FIND HIM, TELL HIM THAT

Chapter 15

The darker, the hotter, the sweeter

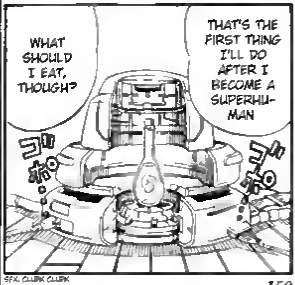
OH, HOW'S TOKIKO-SAN?
武藤
HEY! HEEY!
ONII-CHAN,

NURSE MAHIRO WILL TAKE GOOD CARE OF HER PATIENTS!
DON'T WORRY! THE NURSE HAS PROMISED,
YOU JUST LIKE THE UNIFORM, DON'T YOU?
PRESSED LIKE THAT
MORE ACCURATELY, RIGHT NOW YOU'RE AN ACTRESS, NOT A NURSE


CHOUNO IS NOT IN THIS PLACE
I'LL GIVE YOU ALL SHOTS!
SHUT UP!
IS HIS FATHER LYING TO US?
WHAT? CHOUNO ISN'T HOME?
IF I WERE CHOUNO, I WOULDN'T GO HOME EITHER
UM, HOW DO I SAY THIS—

I SEE THEN THE REMAINING POSSIBILITIES ARE—
THERE'S ONLY THE HOSPITAL FROM BEFORE,
OR THE MONSTER FACTORY.
NO, I CAN GUESS WHAT THAT GUY IS THINKING
WHEN A HUMAN IS BEING PURSUED, HE NATURALLY WANTS TO HIDE IN A SAFE PLACE
THE HOSPITAL AND THE FACTORY ARE BOTH UNSAFE
RIGHT NOW, THE ONLY PLACE CHOUNO CAN RELY ON IS—
I SEE I'LL GO TAKE A LOOK!
HEY DON'T RUN!
I DON'T FEEL SICK YET!
IF YOU OVEREXERT YOURSELF YOU'LL REALLY FAINT THIS TIME
YET!?
GFX: RUNNING

SFX: BANG BANG G'GWAAH HOW IRS



SFX: CLUNK CLUNK

SFX: BANG!

SFX: Pant Pant, Pant Pant

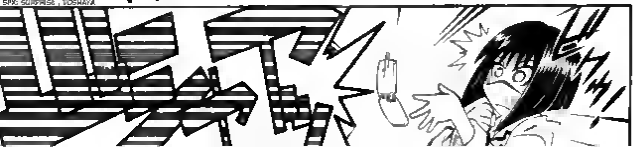
SFX: Mutou Mutou

SFX: Pant Pant Pant

SFX: Konyaro

SFX: Bushuu!

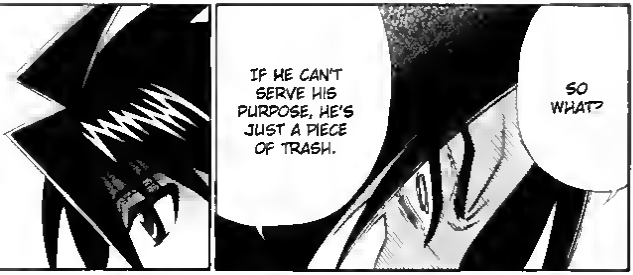
SFX: Surprise ; Yoshaya



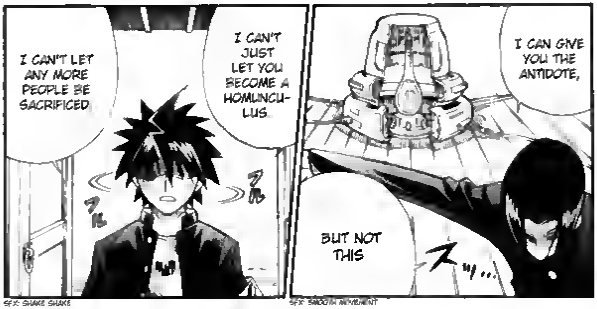
TOKIKO-SAN SEEMS HEALTHY ENOUGH.
WHAT DID I TELL YOU IDIOT!
WHAT? YOU OVEREXERTED YOURSELF?
KAZUKI, WHAT HAPPENED?
JUST NOW THAT WAS...?
SFX: TWITCH, TWITCH, TWITCH
TOKIKO-SAN, I FOUND IT.
JUST LIKE YOU SAID, THE ONLY PLACE LEFT FOR CHOUNO TO GO WAS HIS RENKIN-JUTSU RESEARCH LAB THAT HIS GREAT-GREAT-GRANDFATHER LEFT BEHIND.
I LOOKED UP ITS LOCATION,
AND DISCOVERED CHOUNO'S "LAST RESORT."

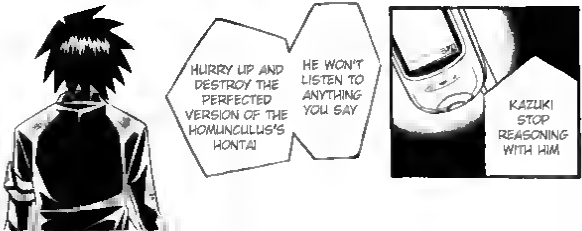
SFX: WHEEEE, WHEEE!! WHEEE!! WHEEEE

YEAH... HE WAS WORRIED FOR YOU, EVEN ON THE BRINK OF DEATH.
YOU'RE STILL ALIVE, SO I GUESS YOU DEFEATED WASHIO


IF HE CAN'T SERVE HIS PURPOSE, HE'S JUST A PIECE OF TRASH.
SO WHAT?

GIVE THEM TO ME, NOW.
THE ANTIDOTE AND THE HOMUNCULUS'S HONTAI


I CAN'T LET ANY MORE PEOPLE BE SACRIFICED
I CAN'T JUST LET YOU BECOME A HOMUNCU-LUS.
SFX: SHAKE SHAKE
I CAN GIVE YOU THE ANTIDOTE,
BUT NOT THIS
SFX: SMOOTH MOVEMENT


HURRY UP AND DESTROY THE PERFECTED VERSION OF THE HOMUNCULUS'S HONTAI
HE WON'T LISTEN TO ANYTHING YOU SAY
KAZUKI STOP REASONING WITH HIM

YOU WILL ALWAYS BE LIKE THIS YOU WILL DIE ALONE
CHOUNO, WHETHER YOU'RE A HUMAN OR A HOMUNCULUS,
I KNOW, TOKIKO -SAN,
BUT JUST ONE LAST TIME

NO ONE WILL REMEMBER YOU
I DON'T CARE WHAT HAPPENS AFTER I DIE
NO ONE WILL MOURN FOR YOU
SO WHAT?
THERE WILL BE NO FLOWERS AT YOUR GRAVE

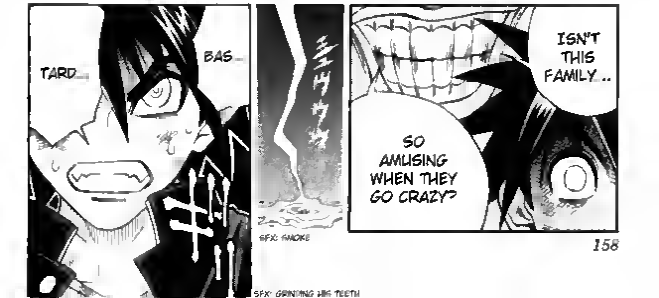
WHAT...
SO...
SO WHAT, YOU FAKER...
IF YOU CAN TAKE AN OATH TO ATONE FOR THE PEOPLE YOU SACRIFICED,
I—

SFX: GRAB
I DON'T CARE WHAT HAPPENS TO ME AFTER I'M DEAD
SO WHAT?
!!
!?
SFX: GRAB
ARE THE FAKER.
YOU,
SFX: STRONG MOVEMENT
JIROU, WHAT DO YOU WANT?
TWO GHOLINDS?!

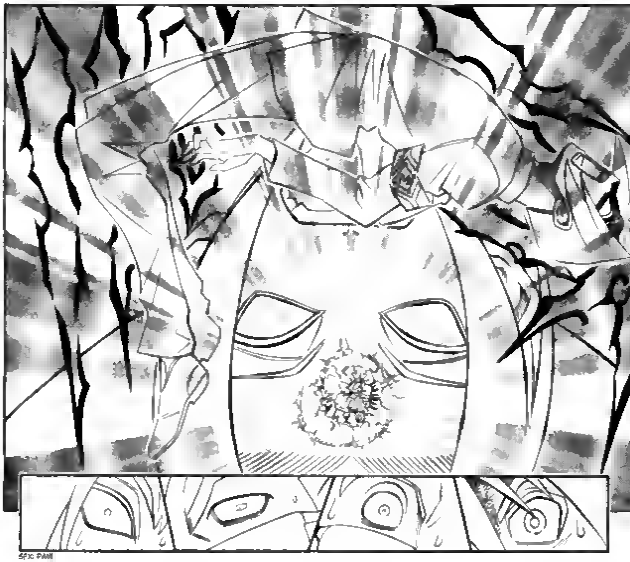
I AM NOW THE OFFICIAL SUCCESSOR FOR THE CHOUNO FAMILY
WHAT, HASN'T FATHER'S MESSAGE REACHED YOU?
HIS BROTHER!
SFX: FOOTSTEP
OH— ISN'T IT?
BUT FOR ME IT IS!
THAT ISN'T IMPOR-TANT
SFX: STRONG MOVEMENT
*THE CHARACTER "SHAKU" INDICATES NOBLE BLOOD
I DON'T EVEN HAVE THE HONORED "-SHAKU"* IN MY NAME!
A NORMAL EDUCATION! A NORMAL SCHOOL! A NORMAL LIFE!
YOU WERE BORN JUST ONE YEAR BEFORE ME, BUT I WAS ALWAYS— YOUR BACKUP.
I WAS JUST A WORM IN THE GROUND!
UNTIL YOU GOT SICK,

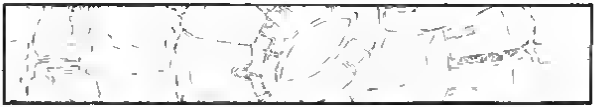
I DON'T UNDERSTAND THE DETAILS,
BUT ONLY THIS CAN SAVE YOU, RIGHT?
コルロ
SFX: WATER SPLASH
IF YOU GET WELL NOW, THAT'S VERY BAD FOR ME
THUS,
SFX: GRAVITIC NOISE
IT'S SO CLOSE TO FINISHING—
BASTARD, DON'T!
SFX: CRUSH

SFX: UUAAAAHHHH HHHHHHHHHH
SFX: DIE!
DIE!
JUST DIE!
WHAT
YOU'RE USELESS!
NO ONE NEEDS SOMEONE LIKE YOU.


TARD
BAS
SFX: GRINDING HIS TEETH
SFX: SMOKE
ISN'T THIS FAMILY ..
SO AMUSING WHEN THEY GO CRAZY?

COME—!!!
!?
SFX: GENERAL MINUS
NO MATTER WHAT YOU ARE, YOU MUST HAVE AN URGE TO SURVIVE!
YOU'RE MADE OF MY CELLS!
THE TIME TO BREAK OUT OF THE COCOON!!
SO COME TO ME! THIS IS THE TIME TO BECOME A SUPERHU-MAN.
SFX: SMACK


SFX: PAW



?!?

YOU DID SAY
MUTOU,
YOU WOULDN'T LET ME SACRIFICE ANY MORE PEOPLE, RIGHT?

WH-WHAT!
WHAT HAPPENED?

TOO BAD.
GUWAAHH!
SFX: GULP
SFX: GULP
SFX: RUSTLE RUSTLE

This is how a human tastes?
As dark as the devil,
As hot as hell,
As sweet as a kiss.
うまそうじゃ

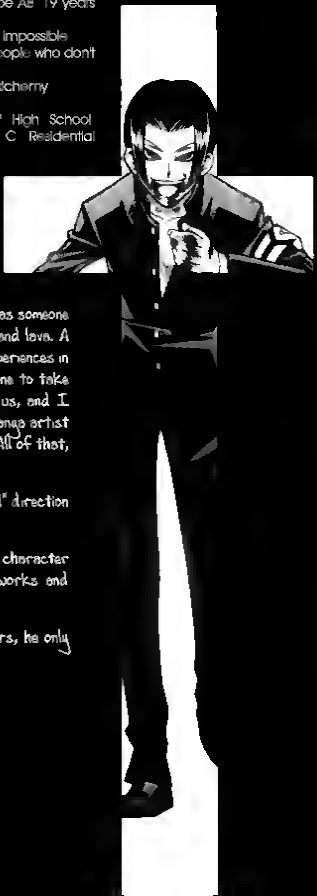
AAAH!
WHAT HAPPENED?
KAZUKI, WHAT'S GOING ON?
EEYAA!

WE'RE RUNNING OUT OF TIME
I HAVE TO GET THE ANTIDOTE!

I'M SORRY "OKIKO-SAN
I HAVE TO FIGHT ONCE MORE
WHAT?

Chouno Koushaku

* Height: 180 cm. Weight: 64 kg.
* Birthday: June 26th, Cancer. Blood type: AB. 19 years old.
* Favorites: himself, butterflies, doing the impossible.
* Dislikes: anything other than himself, people who don't care about doing the impossible.
* Interests: Collecting insects, studying alchemy.
* Special Skill: Coughs up blood.
* Position: "Gensei Private Academy" High School 3rd year (held back 2 years). Class C. Residential student.



Mangaka's Notes:

– If you think about it, every class has someone like this. With a heart made of mud and lava. A Kenji-style character, plus my own experiences in high school (my school wanted everyone to take a test to see what college best fits us, and I was the only one who wanted to be a manga artist and was thus alone in my endeavors). All of that, put together, makes Chouno.

– I somehow started going in a "weird" direction with him. He's pretty fun to draw.

– As for design, I took a preplanned character that never showed up in my earlier works and modified him a bit.

– Unlike Kazuki, who thinks of others, he only wants to achieve his own goal.